GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:329
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN DOMESTIC WOMEN IN KUWAIT
A. VENKATESH NAIK;GADDE RAMAMOHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of exploitation of Indian women working as domestic servants in Kuwait have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India have imposed ban on Indian women working in Kuwait;

(d) if so, the number of Indian women rendered jobless as a result thereof;

(e) whether any representation has been received by the Government to lift the ban;

(f) if so, whether the Governsment propose to send a welfare team to Kuwait to finalise the guidelines before lifting the ban;
(g) if so, the details thereof; and
(h) the measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the Indian women there?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (h) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (H) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 329 FOR 16.8.2000 REGARDING EXPLOITATION OF INDIAN DOMESTIC WOMEN IN KUWAIT.

(a) to (d): Yes Sir. Several cases of exploitation of Indian women working as housemaids in Kuwait had come to the notice of the Government. These, inter-alia included non-payment / delayed payment of salaries, physical and mental torture, non-observance of the terms and conditions of employment by the employers etc. In view of this, Government had imposed a ban on fresh deployment of Indian women as housemaids in Kuwait.

(e) to (h): A few requests for allowing the Indian women to go to Kuwait for employment as housemaids were received. However, the ban has not been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of Indian housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment. A community welfare team is expected to visit Kuwait to have discussion with the Kuwaiti authorities with a view to evolving a system that would ensure well-being of all Indians employed in Kuwait. This would facilitate review of the situation which could ultimately lead to removal of the existing restrictions.